## IN THE CLAIMS

The pending claims are presented below:

1.  (Previously presented):  A method comprising:

determining an urgent update from among a plurality of updates;

creating an urgent update notification (UUN) associated with the urgent update;

sending the UUN to at least one network appliance;

receiving a request for the urgent update from the at least one network appliance, the request for the urgent update being sent by the at least one network appliance in response to receiving the UUN; and

providing the urgent update to the at least one network appliance in response to receiving the request for the urgent update.

2. (Previously presented):  The method of Claim 1, wherein sending the UUN to the at least one network appliance further comprises sending the UUN through a specific message port of the at least one network appliance.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented):  The method of Claim 2, wherein the UUN conforms to a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) conformed message and the message port is port 25.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented):  The method of Claim 1, wherein providing the urgent update to the at least one network appliance comprises providing a log that includes the urgent update to the at least one network appliance.

8. (Previously presented):  The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

collecting an IP address of the at least one network appliance when the at least one network appliance establishes a connection to obtain updates; and

storing the IP address in a log.

9. (Previously presented): The method of Claim 8, further comprising removing out-of-date IP addresses from the log.

10. (Previously presented): The method of Claim 9, wherein sending the UUN to the at least one network appliance comprises sending a message with the UUN to each IP address in the log.

11. (Original): The method of Claim 10, wherein the IP address is up-to-date.

12. (Previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the method is performed by at least one of a server, a network appliance, and a dedicated platform.

13. (Previously presented): A method comprising:
receiving a message from a server;
determining that the message includes an urgent update notification (UUN);
in response to the determining that the message includes the UUN,
    establishing a connection with the server;
    pulling the urgent update from the server; and
    installing the urgent update.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented): The method of Claim 13, wherein the message conforms to a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) protocol and a message port includes port 25.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented): The method of Claim 13, wherein determining that the message includes the UUN comprises detecting a special format of the message.

18. (Previously presented): The method of Claim 13, wherein pulling the urgent update from the server comprises obtaining a log that includes the urgent update.

19. (Previously presented): The method of Claim 13, further comprising obtaining updates from the server at pre-determined intervals.

20. (Previously presented): The method of Claim 13, wherein the method is performed by at least one of a server, a network appliance, a router, a switch, and a firewall.

21. (Currently amended): A system comprising:
an update server comprising:
        an update daemon configured to determine updates and to provide the updates to network appliances, the ~~update server~~ update daemon being further configured to determine an update that is urgent and to send an urgent update notification (UUN) about the urgent update to each network appliance; and
        a network appliance comprising:
        an update processor configured to periodically obtain updates from the update server, the ~~network appliance~~ update processor being further configured to receive from the update server the UUN and to pull the urgent update from the update server in response to the received UUN.

22. (Original): The system of Claim 21, wherein the update server is further configured to collect IP addresses of the network appliances in conjunction with periodic update requests, store the IP addresses in a log, and remove an IP address from the log when the IP address is out-of-date.

23. (Original): The system of Claim 21, wherein the update server is further configured to send the UUN as a message to each network appliance through a specific message port.

24. (Previously presented): The system of Claim 21, wherein the update server is further configured to connect to the network appliances and provide updates to the network appliances.

25. (Previously presented): The system of Claim 24, wherein the update server is further configured to determine IP addresses associated with each of the network appliances when the network appliances connect to the update server to receive or check for updates.

26. (Previously presented): The system of Claim 25, wherein the update server is further configured to send the UUN to each of the IP addresses.

27. (Original): The system of Claim 21, wherein the update server is further configured to maintain a log that includes the updates.

28. (Previously presented): The system of Claim 21, wherein the network appliance is configured to access the log to obtain the updates.

29. (Currently amended): An apparatus comprising:
~~means for determining~~ an update daemon configured to:
determine an urgent update;
~~means for creating~~ create an urgent update notification (UUN) associated with the urgent update;
~~means for collecting and maintaining~~ collect and maintain IP addresses of network appliances;
~~means for sending~~ send the UUN to the network appliances as messages;
~~means for receiving~~ receive a request for the urgent update from at least one of the network appliances; and

~~means for providing~~ provide the urgent update to the at least one of the network appliances in response to the request.

30. (Currently amended):  An apparatus comprising:

an update processor configured to:

~~means for receiving~~ receive a message;

~~means for determining~~ determine when the message includes an urgent update notification (UUN) associated with an urgent update;

~~means for establishing~~ establish a connection with a server in response to a determination that the message includes the UUN associated with the urgent update;

~~means for pulling~~ pull the urgent update from the server; and

~~means for installing~~ install the urgent update.

31. (Previously presented):  A network appliance, comprising:

a central processing unit; and

at least one data storage;

wherein the network appliance, in conjunction with the central processing unit and the at least one data storage, is configured to receive a message from a server, determine if the message includes an urgent update notification (UUN) associated with an urgent update, establish a connection with the server and request the urgent update from the server in response to a determination that the message includes the UUN associated with the urgent update, receive the urgent update from the server, and install the urgent update.

32. (Previously presented):  The network appliance of Claim 31, wherein:

the network appliance, in conjunction with the central processing unit and the at least one data storage, is configured to detect and remove exploits from messages; and

the urgent update comprises software configured to execute on the network appliance.

33. (Previously presented): The network appliance of Claim 32, wherein the network appliance comprises a message port arranged to receive messages, including messages comprising the UUN.

34. (Previously presented): The network appliance of Claim 31, wherein the central processing unit and the at least one data storage are configured to determine if the message includes the UUN associated with the urgent update, based on a format of the message.

35. (Previously presented): An update server, comprising:
a central processing unit; and
at least one data storage;
wherein the update server, in conjunction with the central processing unit and the at least one data storage, is configured to determine an urgent update, create an urgent update notification (UUN) associated with the urgent update, collect and maintain IP addresses of network appliances, send the UUN to the network appliances as messages, receive a request for the urgent update from at least one of the network appliances, and provide the urgent update to the at least one of the network appliances in response to the request.

36. (Previously presented): The update server of Claim 35, wherein the update server, in conjunction with the central processing unit and the at least one data storage, is configured to collect IP addresses of the network appliances based on the messages generated by the network appliances, store the collected IP addresses, and remove out-of-date IP addresses from the at least one data storage.

37. (Previously presented): The update server of Claim 35, wherein the urgent update comprises software configured to execute on the network appliances.

38. (Previously presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one network appliance is configured to detect and remove exploits from messages.

39. (Withdrawn): A method comprising:

obtaining updates for at least one network appliance;

recording a plurality of the updates in an update log;

receiving an update request from the at least one network appliance;

providing the updates recorded in the update log to the at least one network appliance in response to the receiving the update request;

determining an urgent update from among the updates;

creating an urgent update notification (UUN) associated with the urgent update;

sending the UUN to the at least one network appliance;

receiving a request for the urgent update from the at least one network appliance, the request for the urgent update being sent by the at least one network appliance in response to receiving the UUN; and

providing the urgent update to the at least one of the network appliances in response to receiving the request for the urgent update.


40. (Withdrawn): A method comprising:

periodically sending update requests to a server;

obtaining updates from the server, the updates being stored in an update log of the server and being provided by the server in response to the server receiving the update requests;

receiving a message;

determining that the message includes an urgent update notification (UUN); and

in response to the determining that the message includes the UUN,

    establishing a connection with a server;

    pulling the urgent update from the server; and

    installing the urgent update.